WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Representation to Bihar in Tea Board

†864. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extensive farming of tea has been undertaken in Kishanganj district of Bihar during the past several years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bihar has not been given representation in the Tea Board by nominating any tea entrepreneur from that State as a member; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Tea cultivation in Kishanganj, Bihar was started during the last decade and, as on date, as per the report of the Bihar Tea Planter's Association, about 4000 hectares is under cultivation in Kishanganj district.

(b) and (c) A nominee from the State of Bihar cannot be a member of the Tea Board as per the Tea Act because the State is a non-traditional tea area. However, the Tea Board has been advised to invite a nominee of the State Government of Bihar to meetings of the Board, as a special invitee, if subjects relevant to Bihar are discussed.

Effect of import of edible oils

†865. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing edible oils from other countries;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof and the names of those countries, togetherwith the rates at which oil is being imported;

(c) whether it would adversely affect the edible oil business of the country; and

(d) its impact on the producers of mustard and soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Details of import of edible oils [Vegetable oils fixed (Edible)] from major countries during the last three years is given in the table below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Countires	Quantity in Tons		Value in Rs. Lakhs			
	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (Prov.)	
Indonesia	2781751	579899.07	2705243	601221.37	2131196	406550.34
Argentina	795334	210409.6	771731	208314.97	1180.277	277053.85
Malaysia	1304862	279347.03	898371	196067.08	389688	72238.58
Brazil	223009	56653.98	281189	75076.68	350235	82907.97
UAE	2566	1075.03	56233	14507.81	81524	19402.66
USA	62838	20002.28	12527	5820.29	26330	9787.82
Others	119936	20937.52	25900	6680.64	15540	3691.22
TOTAL	5290296	1168324.51	4751194	1107688.84	4174790	871632.44

(c) and (d) Subsequent to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports in 2001, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items. Protection to the domestic producers including farmers is provided by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include calibration of applied tariff within bound levels and safeguard action under specified circumstances. Further, the Government also implements a number of development programmes to increase the competitiveness of the Indian farmers. These include introduction of improved farming technology, improved availability of inputs including water, credit and fertilizers and price support through the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

Production capacity of cement industry

866. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present production capacity of cement industry in the country;

(b) whether the production of cement in the country has fallen short of demand during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to enhance the production capacity of the cement industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION; MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (c) Information relating to installed capacity to large cement plants, production and domestic consumption of